

which would only be considered a fair output for a single colliery of moderate size in any other mining district. This coalfield is only 13 to 24 miles by railroad from tide-water navigation. No other competing bituminous coalfield is much less than two hundred miles from tide-water navigation, and this difference of about two hundred miles has in the past made an average margin of not less than \$2.00 per ton in favor of the Richmond field, yet its development has been remarkably slow—so slow that even in the absence of actual knowledge, the existence of some peculiarly unfavorable conditions could be safely assumed. Mr. Heinrich estimates the total production of the field from 1822 to 1878 at 5,647,621 tons.

The existence of coal in the Deep and Dan river districts was known at a very early day. As the coal and bituminous slates are often exposed at the surface, its discovery must have been made shortly after the country was settled. Coal was dug from open pits for blacksmithing in the Deep River field early in this, if not indeed in the last century, but no systematic attempt was made to open the field to market until the slack water improvement of the Deep River. As these improvements were seriously damaged by floods soon after the completion, the people were discouraged from further attempts at that time. The next attempts were made upon the completion of the railroad from Fayetteville to Egypt and the Gulf. Some coal was shipped over this road from the shaft at Egypt, but the cost of transportation to Fayetteville and of trans-shipment and towing down the Cape Fear River to Wilmington, (somewhat over a hundred miles, I believe), on a river full of shoals, was doubtless too great to leave any profit. Operations were most actively pushed in the period immediately preceding the war. During the war coal was mined at Farmville, Egypt, Gulf and the Evans' place, and shipped by river to Fayetteville and to Wilmington, where it was used to some extent by blockade-runners, but the aggregate amount thus shipped must have been quite small.

After the war some coal was mined at Farmville, Egypt and Gulf, but only a small quantity was shipped to a distance. Excluding the quantity mined from the shaft at Egypt, of which I